



STAR-SPANGLED ACTION--SENSATION-STUDED ADVENTURE
by ROY THOMAS and JERRY ORDWAY!

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NO. 23
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ALL-STAR SQUADRON

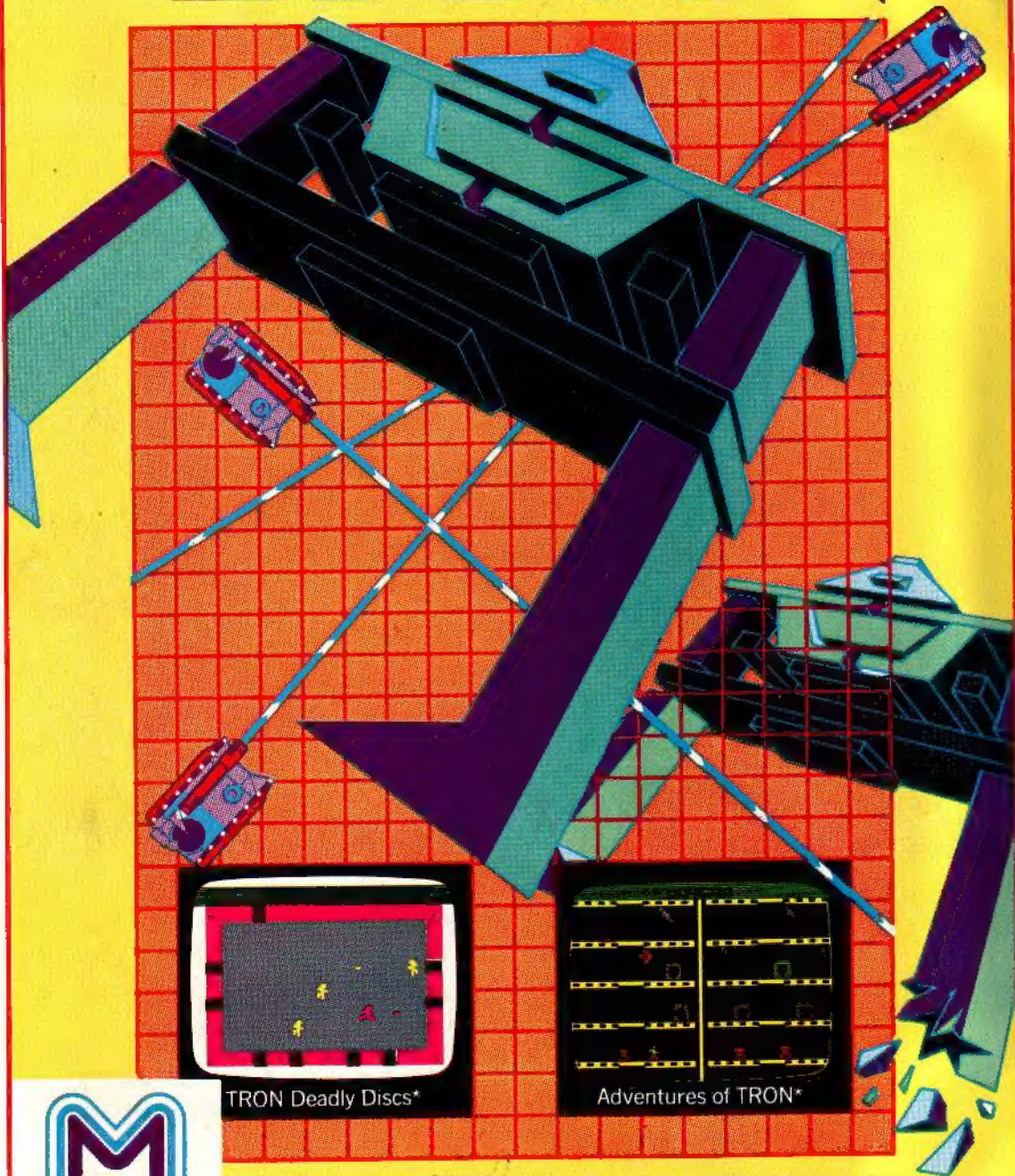
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IS HE FRIEND -- OR THE
ALL-STAR'S DEADLIEST FOE?



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"While from a proud tower in the town
Death looks gigantically down."
—Edgar Allan Poe, *The City in the Sea*.

ALL-STAR SQUADRON

WELL, HERE WE ARE, LADY AND GENTS... OUR LITTLE HOME AWAY FROM HOMICIDE.

NOT FUNNY, GREEN LANTERN-- NOT WITH THREE ALL-STAR'S IN THE CLUTCHES OF THAT MANIAC ULTRA.

HEY-- IS IT JUST MY OVERACTIVE IMAGINATION, OR IS YOUR RING-BUBBLE GETTING WEAKER, G.L.?

SMALL WONDER IF IT IS, JOHNNY. SINCE WE'VE BEEN UP ALL NIGHT AND MOST OF THE DAY.

when
FATE
thy measure
takes....!

ROY THOMAS	JERRY ORDWAY	MIKE MACHLAN
writer/editor	inker	inker
GENE D'ANGELO	DAVID CODY WEISS	
colorist	letterer	

SORRY, PEOPLE. WHEN MY WILL POWER GETS WEAK, SO DOES MY RING-RAY...

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...THOUGH I'VE STILL GOT ENERGY LEFT TO CARRY US THROUGH THE TOP OF THE PERISPHERE.

GLAD TO HEAR IT. HEY, IT KINDA TICKLES.

HOW CAN YOU BOTH TAKE OUR DEFEAT UP NORTH SO LIGHTLY?

LAST ISSUE.
704.

WE DON'T, LIBERTY BELLE...



WE JUST TAKE IT!

ME, I'M STILL HAVING WAKING NIGHTMARES-- IN WHICH I SEE MYSELF LEVELING JAPAN--SLAUGHTERING WHOLE MULTITUDES.

BUT AT LEAST THAT WAS JUST A DREAM-IMAGE...

...NOT LIKE THE CAPTURE OF SUPERMAN, ROBOTMAN, AND FIREBRAND!



"CHECK, COMMANDER STEEL. I DOUBT IF ULTRA WILL WANT TO KILL ANY OF THEM RIGHT AWAY--BUT THEY MAKE PERFECT HOSTAGES.

"WHATEVER SHE'S GOT UP HER SLEEVE, SHE'LL MAKE A DANGEROUS FOE-- WITH THE POWERSTONE AND THE HAMMER OF THOR' AS HER PLAY-THINGS--

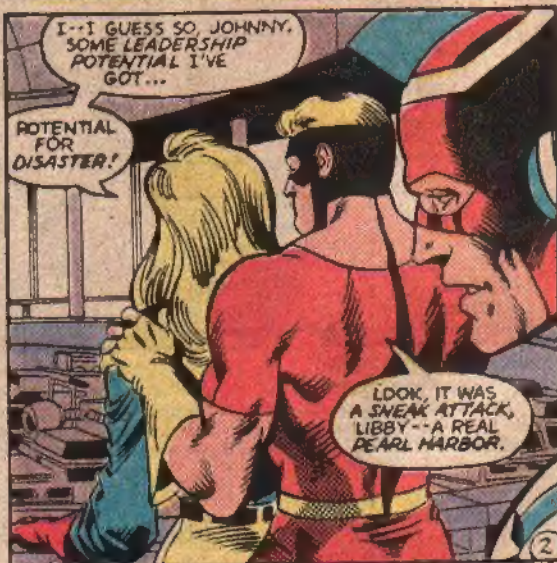
"--AND THOSE TWO HYPER-POWERED CRONIES OF HERS, CYCLOTRON AND DEATHBOLT... NOT TO MENTION THE SUBTERRANEANS SHE RULES.



WHAT'S WORSE, SHE HINTED THERE WAS A THIRD "TALISMAN OF POWER" LURKING AROUND SOMEWHERE, AND-- YOU OKAY, BELLE?

JUST-- SLEEPY, THAT'S ALL.

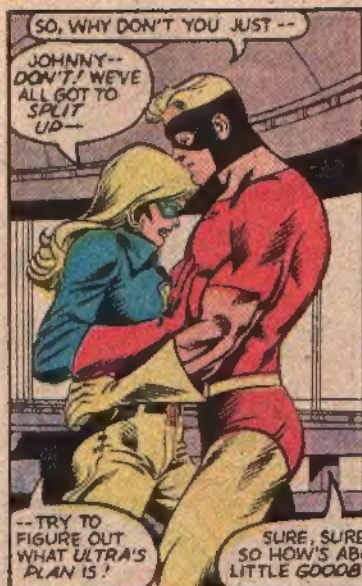
LIKE HECK IT IS? YOU'RE BLAMING YOURSELF, AREN'T YOU-- BECAUSE YOU'RE CHAIRWOMAN OF THE ALL-STARS.



I--I GUESS SO, JOHNNY. SOME LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL I'VE GOT...

POTENTIAL FOR DISASTER!

LOOK, IT WAS A SNEAK ATTACK, LIBBY--A REAL PEARL HARBOR.



SO, WHY DON'T YOU JUST --

JOHNNY-- DON'T! WE'VE ALL GOT TO SPLIT UP--

-- TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHAT ULTRA'S PLAN IS!

SURE, SURE... SO HOW'S ABOUT A LITTLE GOODBYE KISS?



WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO-- HIT YOU OVER THE HEAD? I'M NOT IN THE MOOD!

I GET IT, LADY.

I WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO BUDDY AROUND WITH BEFORE GUYS LIKE SUPERMAN AND THE LANTERN CAME ON THE SCENE--



--BUT NOW, JOHNNY QUICK'S JUST AN ALSO-RAN!

THAT'S IT IN A NUTSHELL, RIGHT?



DON'T TALK CRAZY JOHNNY, THAT'S NOT WHAT I-- WAIT!

NOT HIM.

LISTEN, IF IT'S "LOOKING FOR CLUES" TIME, NOBODY'S GOT BETTER CONNECTIONS THAN JOHNNY CHAMBERS, BOY NEWSREELER--NOT EVEN LIBBY LAWRENCE.

WHOOSH

IF I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT ULTRA'S UP TO-- WHERE SHE'S GOING TO STRIKE NEXT--NOBODY CAN!



UH, BELLE-- IF YOU WANT TO GO AFTER HIM--!

NO, LANTERN. IT'S JUST SOMETHING JOHNNY AND I'LL HAVE TO GET STRAIGHT BETWEEN US--

--AFTER WE TAKE CARE OF ULTRA AND COMPANY.



WE'RE PRETTY SHORT-HANDED, THOUGH, I NEVER DID ASK-- WHERE'S TARANTULA?

HE AND JOHNNY HAD WORDS EARLIER-- PROBABLY OVER YOU--

YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO CHEER UP A GAL, STEEL.

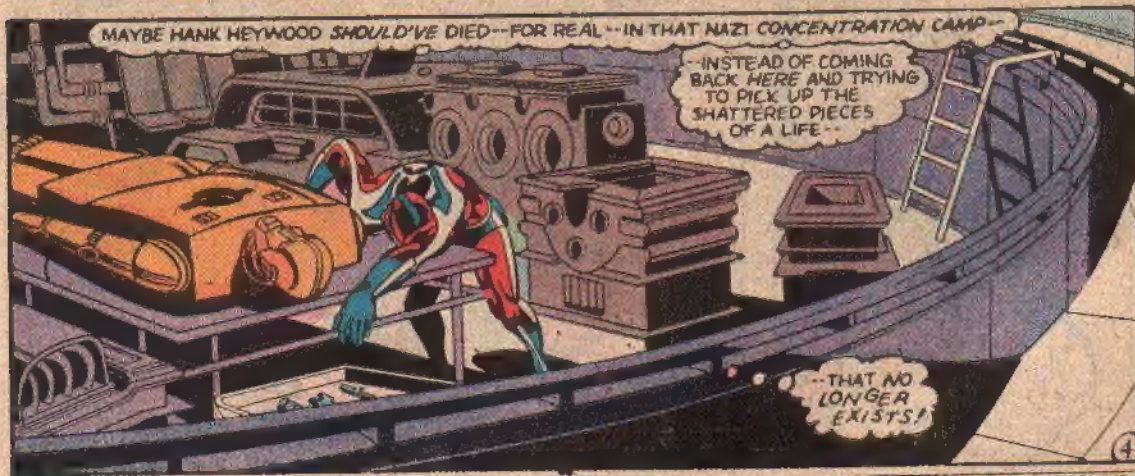
--AND HE HEADED BACK TO HIS MANHATTAN DIGS.

WE DON'T NEED HIM.



NOW, I'VE GOT TO REPORT BACK TO ARMY BARRACKS NEAR GOTHAM CITY, AT LEAST FOR A MINUTE-- BEFORE I'M LISTED AS AWOL.

BUT AFTER THAT, I'M GOING ON AN ULTRA HUNT!





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AS SOMEONE ONCE SAID: MEANWHILE...

TWO ISSUES AGO (OR A COUPLE OF HOURS, TAKE YOUR PICK), WE SAW THE HAWKMAN, DOCTOR FATE, AND THE ATOM DEPART FOR THE NATION'S CAPITAL, TO JOIN THE REST OF THE JUSTICE SOCIETY.

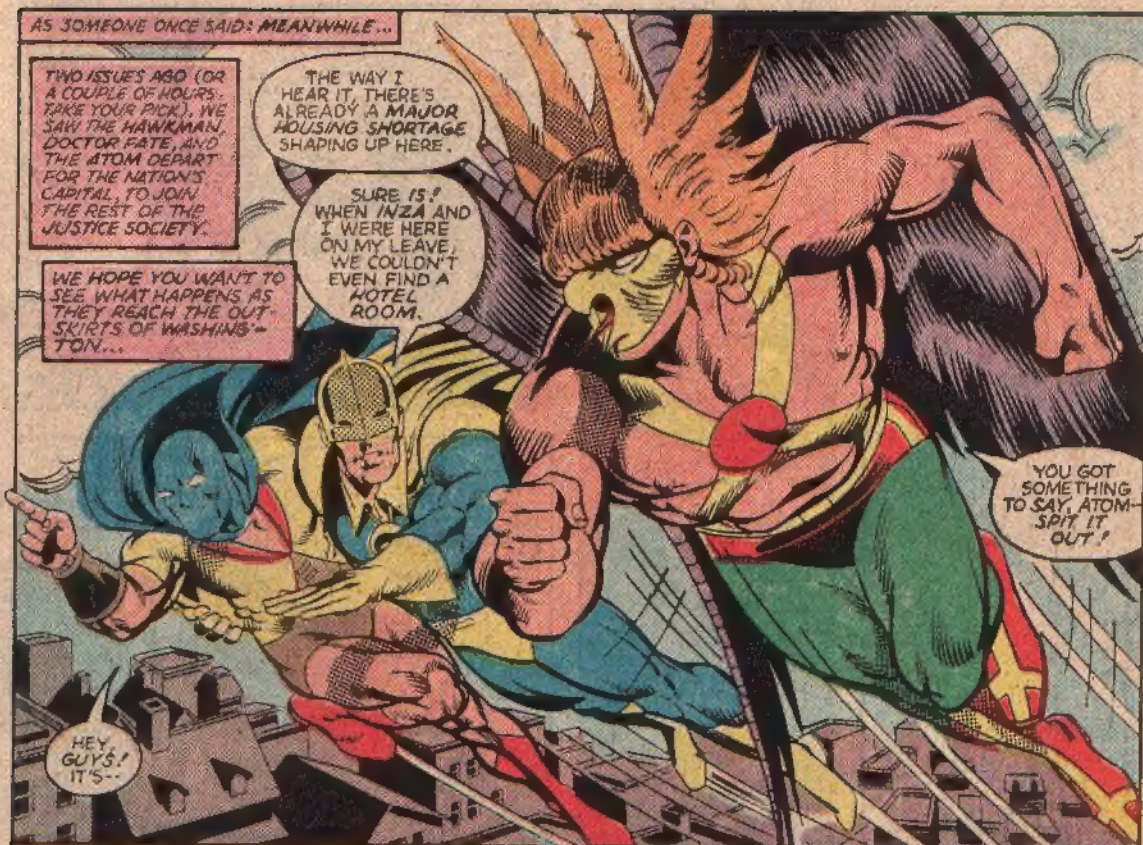
WE HOPE YOU WANT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS AS THEY REACH THE OUTSKIRTS OF WASHINGTON...

THE WAY I HEAR IT, THERE'S ALREADY A MAJOR HOUSING SHORTAGE SHAPING UP HERE.

SURE IS! WHEN INZA AND I WERE HERE ON MY LEAVE, WE COULDN'T EVEN FIND A HOTEL ROOM.

YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, ATOM-SPLIT IT OUT!

HEY GUYS! IT'S--



OKAY, HOW ABOUT THIS:

WATCH OUT!

BY THE ORB OF NABU!

GREAT SCOTT! WASN'T LOOKING-- AND NOW--



HUH? WHERE'D THOSE GUYS COME FROM-- JUST AS I WAS STARTIN' MY APPROACH? GOT TO--



WOW! THAT HOTSHOT PILOT MANAGED TO MISS US!



BUT NOW HE'S GOING INTO A SPIN--

--AND UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING FAST--HE'S NEVER GOING TO COME OUT OF IT!"





I'VE GOT THE ATOM, FATE. CAN YOU--?

WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD, HAWK-MAN.

THIS IS ONE TIME I WISH I STILL HAD MY MAGICAL POWERS--

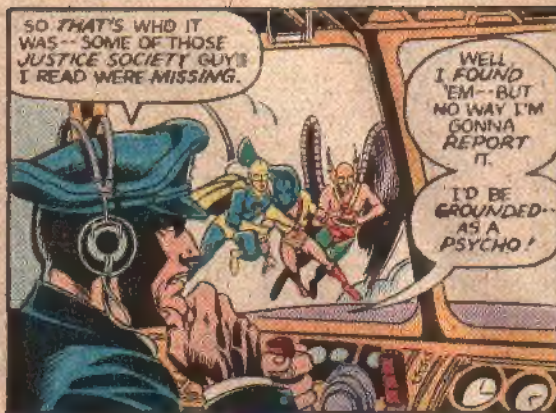


--THOUGH: LUCKILY I'M NOT ENTIRELY WITHOUT RESOURCES.

I'LL SAY! NOT EVEN SUPERMAN COULD'VE DONE IT BETTER*

OR AN UNDERCOATING OF MY NINTH METAL, LIKE I'VE GOT IN MY WINGS AND BELT.

*OUR TITANIC TRIO DON'T KNOW OF THEIR FRIENDS' CAPTURE. R.T.



SO THAT'S WHO IT WAS-- SOME OF THOSE JUSTICE SOCIETY GUY'S I READ WERE MISSING.

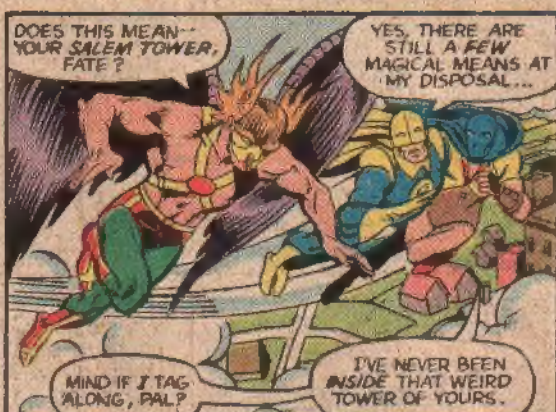
WELL I FOUND 'EM-- BUT NO WAY I'M GONNA REPORT IT.

I'D BE GROUNDED-- AS A PSYCHO!



I WAS CARELESS, TOO, MY FRIENDS... BECAUSE I WAS THINKING OF HOW THE SPECTRE FAILED TO APPEAR, WHEN WE WERE ALL CAPTIVES OF THE BRAIN WAVE.

I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T JOIN THE OTHERS NOW-- NOT TILL I'VE LEARNED WHERE HE IS-- HOW HE IS.

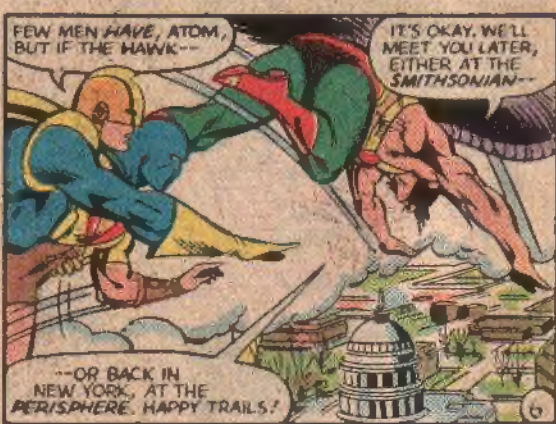


DOES THIS MEAN-- YOUR SALEM TOWER, FATE?

YES, THERE ARE STILL A FEW MAGICAL MEANS AT MY DISPOSAL...

MIND IF I TAG ALONG, PAL?

I'VE NEVER BEEN INSIDE THAT WEIRD TOWER OF YOURS.



FEW MEN HAVE, ATOM, BUT IF THE HAWK--

IT'S OKAY, WE'LL MEET YOU LATER, EITHER AT THE SMITHSONIAN--

--OR BACK IN NEW YORK, AT THE PERISPHERE. HAPPY TRAILS!

I DIDN'T
WANT TO
DISTRACT THE
AUDIENCE
FROM THE
MESSAGE
I WAS TRYING
TO
DELIVER

THAT WHERE YOU
KEEP THE FULL HELMET
YOU USED TO WEAR?

THE ONE YOU WORE
WHEN YOU WERE
GOING AROUND
MAGN. BEES LIKE
"HE NEEZ 'OMANY
BASEBALLS"

"FOR YEARS, KASU TRAINED ME, UNTIL I COULD LEVITATE BOTH MYSELF AND OTHER OBJECTS."

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 840.

1947年
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2000
2001
2002
2003

SHE SWUNG IN HER ORBIT FAST AN
NEARBY EARTH.

"WHEN THE TIME CAME FOR ME TO
LEAVE THE VALLEY, TWO YEARS AGO, HE
GAVE ME THREE MYSTIC TALISMANS
A CLOAK, AN AMULET, AND A HELMET

FROM THIS DAY, KENT NELSON,
YOU SHALL BE A MAN OF DESTINY.

[illegible]

"THERE'S MUCH I DON'T COMPREHEND
ABOUT NABU YET -- AND PROBABLY
NEVER SHALL

44, 45, 46
VICTOR LATE

IN A CITY WHERE THERE WERE
SOME PEOPLE, SOME THINGS
AND I WERE EVER IN CONTACT
WITH THEM. I WOULD NOT
THEY WERE THE

THEN, ONE NIGHT LAST SUMMER
I SUDDENLY SENSED THE TRUTH
ABOUT THE HELMET.

WHEN I DONNED IT, I CEASED
BEING KENT NELSON-- AND
BECAME INSTEAD ANOTHER
BEING.

THE HEIR
OF NABU--
PERHAPS
EVEN
NABU
HIMSELF!

HEY
WASN'T
THAT
R SHIT
AFTER?

"YES--THE JUSTICE SOCIETY
ADVENTURE THE WORLD'S
NOT READY TO LEARN
ABOUT YET.

"IN EXCRUCIATING PAIN, I
ENTERED MY
TOWER BARELY
IN TIME..

I-N-Z-A-

KENT? IN GOD'S
NAME-- WHAT'S
WRONG??

MY HELMET? I FEEL-- AS IF IT'S
TRYING TO TAKE ME OVER,
SOMEHOW!

THEN HURRY--
TAKE IT OFF!

I-I CAN'T, UNLESS
GIVE ME YOUR HAND!

THANK
GOD!
ONLY
YOUR
TOUCH

I SHOULD'VE WARNED
YOU, DARLING--I'VE
SEEN THIS COMING
FOR MONTHS--YOU
BECOMING LESS LIKE
A MAN, AND MORE
LIKE SOME ALIEN
CREATURE

MAYBE THE
WORLD NEEDS
DOCTOR FATE--
BUT I NEED
KENT NELSON!

AND FROM NOW
ON-- YOU'LL
HAVE HIM!

I'M FINISHED
WITH THIS
THING!

STILL--CAN YOU FEEL
IT, N-ZA? THE HELMET'S
SIREN CALL?

YES--I
FEEL IT--
I CAN.

IT WANTS YOU, KENT--
WANTS YOU TO WEAR IT AGAIN--
MERGE WITH IT AGAIN.

NO MORE MONEY!
I WOULD
BE BOTH MYSELF,
AND A STAND-
ALONE-- BUT
I WAS WRONG

FROM NOW ON,
THERE'LL BE A DR. FATE
WHO'S MASTER OF HIS
OWN DESTINY-- OR
THERE'LL BE NO DR.
FATE AT ALL!

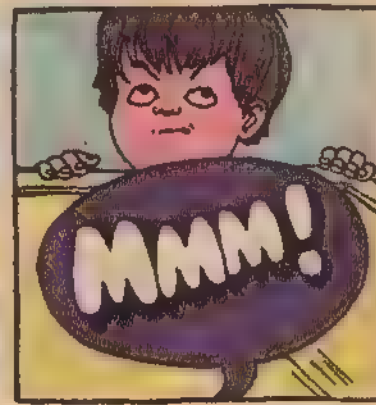
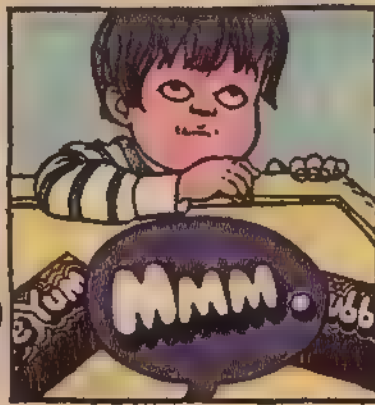
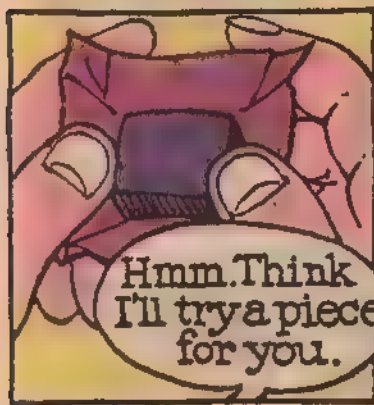
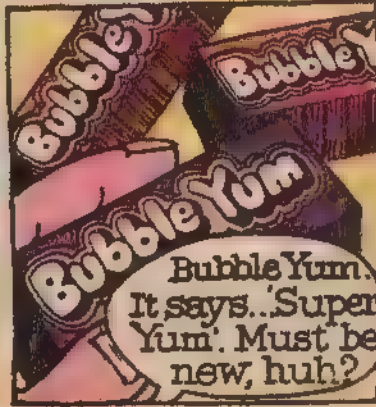
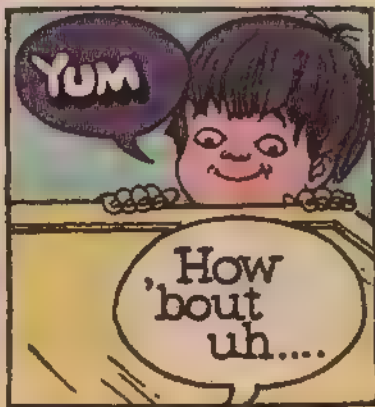
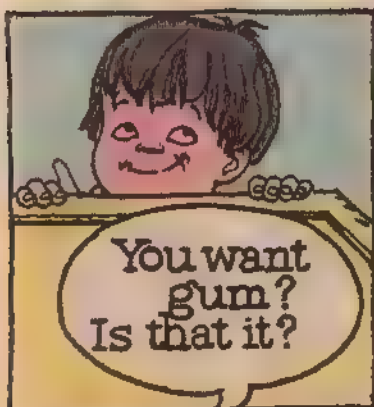
WE'LL GIVE YOU A
NEW HELMET-- MY
LIFE AND FATE
COSTS YOU SOME
OF YOUR FORMER
POWER

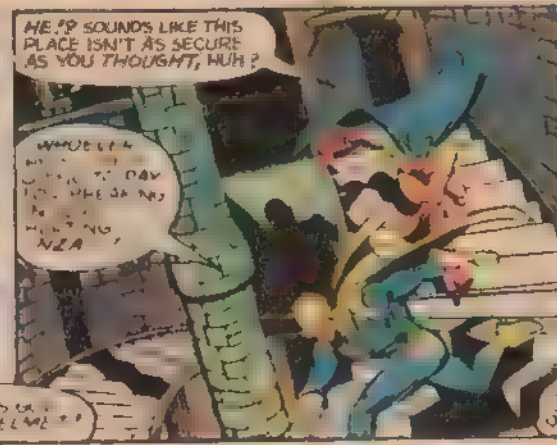
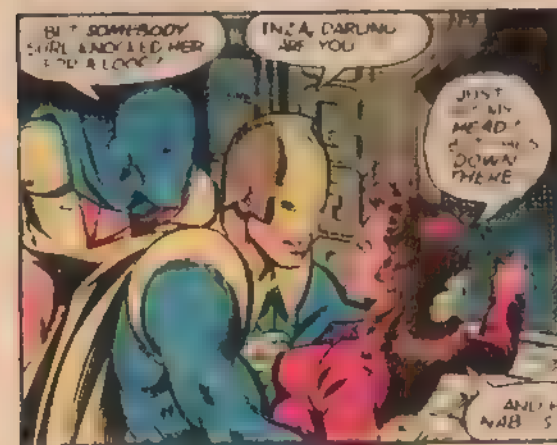
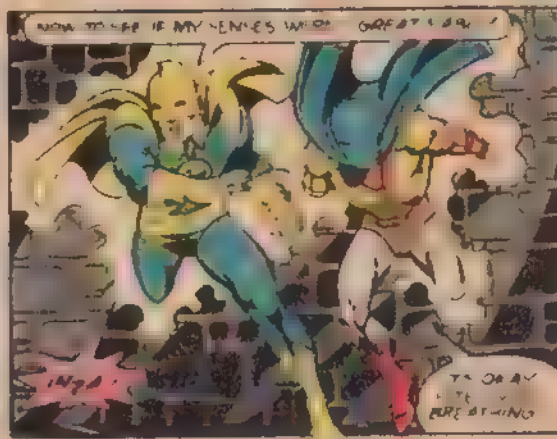
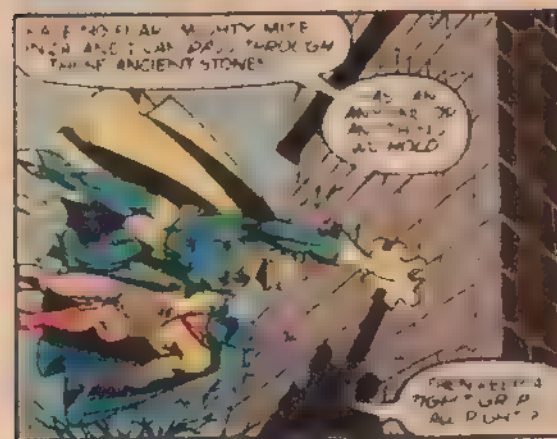
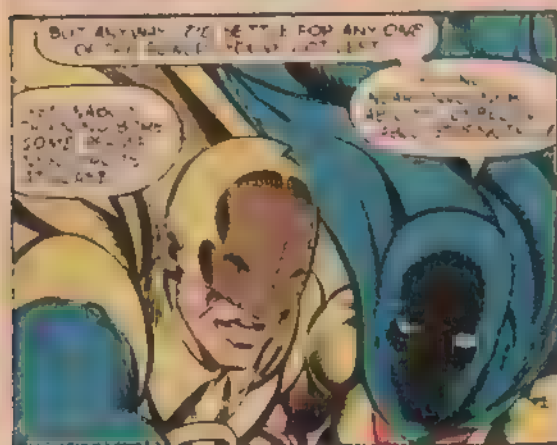
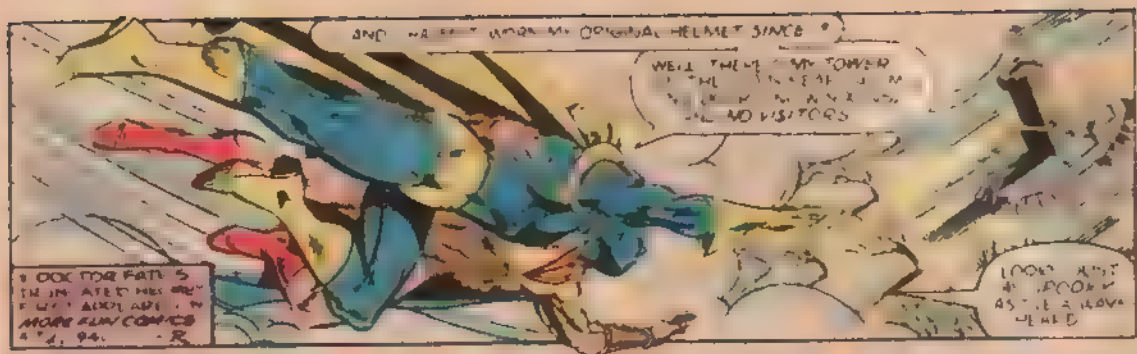
.. AT LEAST IT
WON'T COST
YOU YOUR
LIFE-- OR
YOUR SOUL!

THAT WAS
MONTHS
AGO..

BEHIND THE CANDY COUNTER

ADVERTISEMENT





I'M NOT PAYIN' FOR ANYTAH AIN' MAN. LET'S MAYBE 'S A ONE MAN TICKET OUT OF HERE

THERE HE IS! HEY HE'S

I BELIEVE YOU GOT SOMETHIN' THAT BELONGS TO ME FELLA

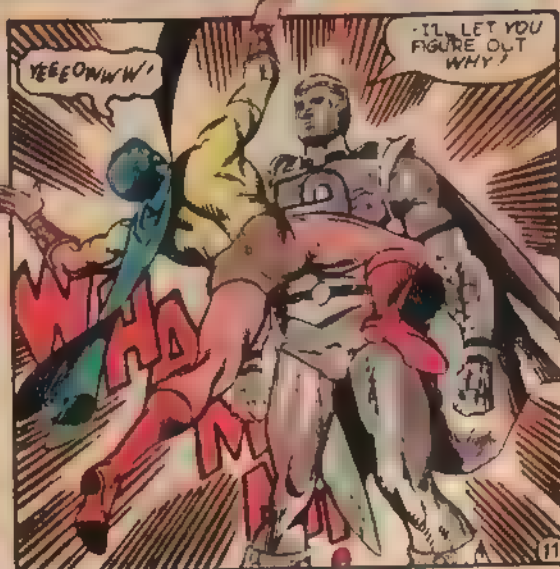
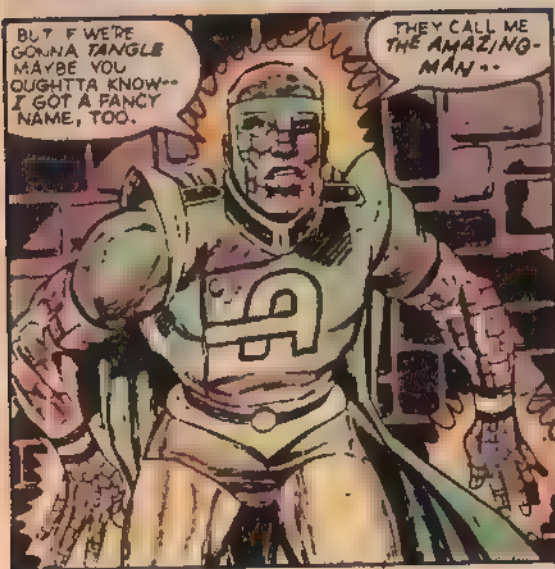
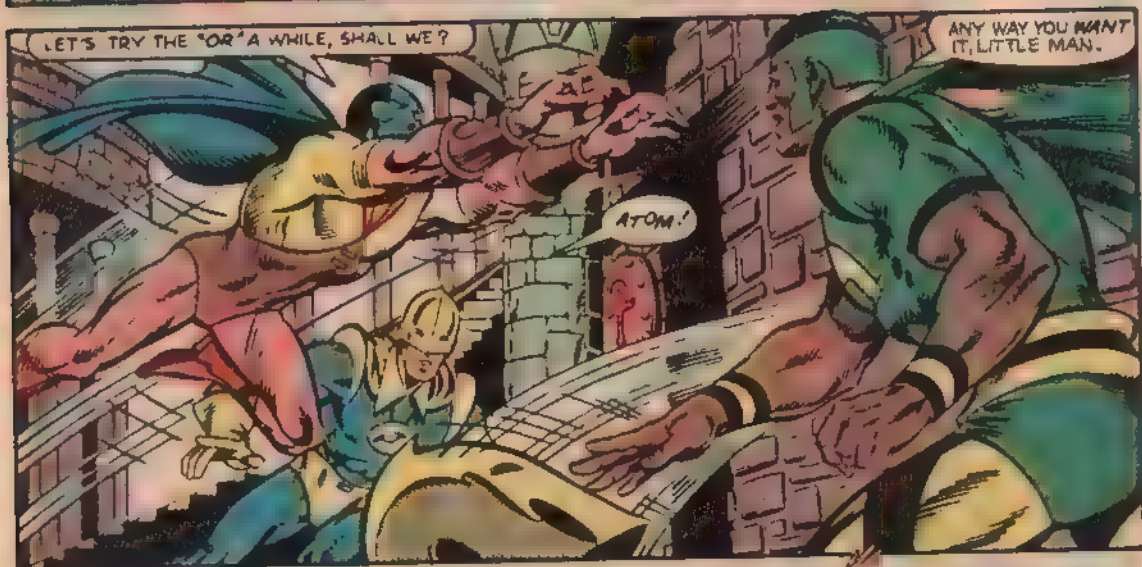
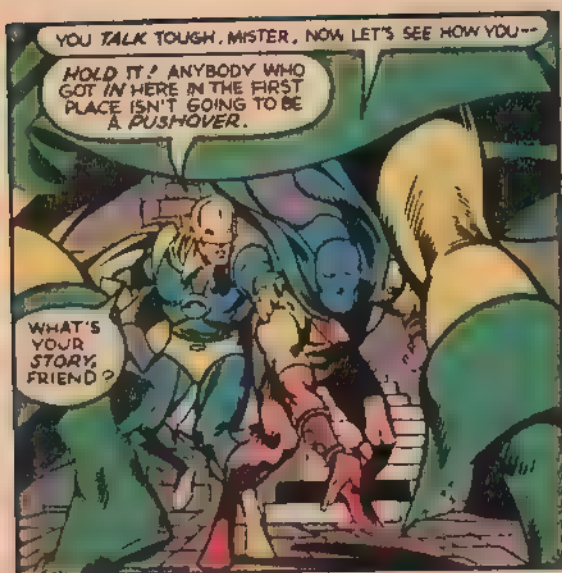
MAYBE THAT KIND'A TALK SCARES THE LOCALS, GOLDIE-- BUT I'VE BEEN THREATENED BY EXPERTS!

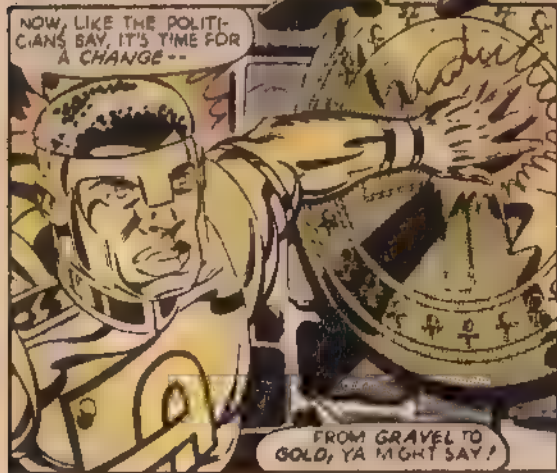
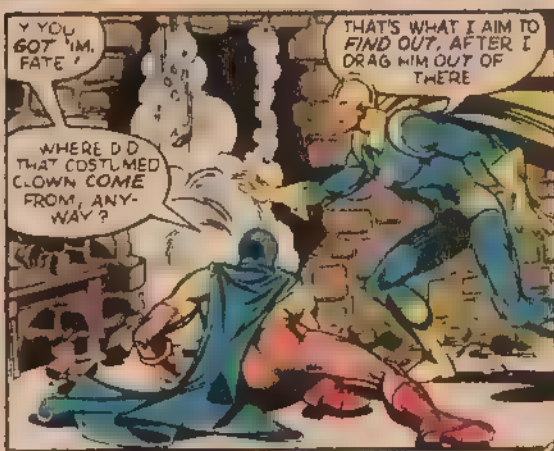
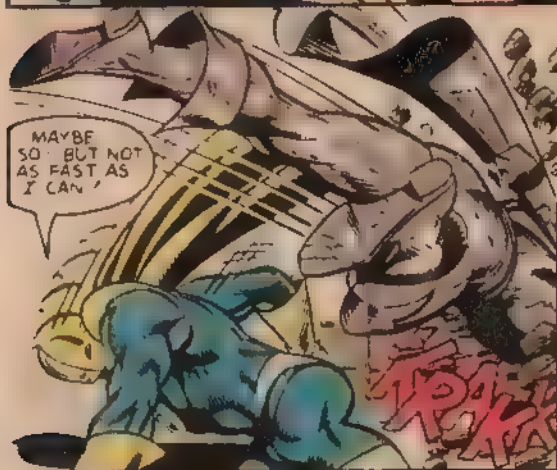
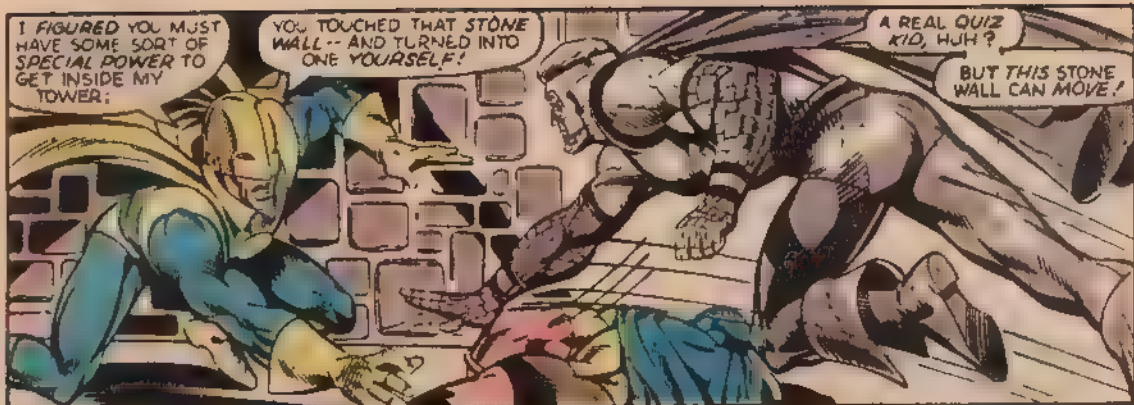
NOW, SUPPOSIN' YOU JUST OPEN UP A DOOR OR WINDOW OR SOMETHIN' IN THIS STONE PLAYPEN OF YOURS--

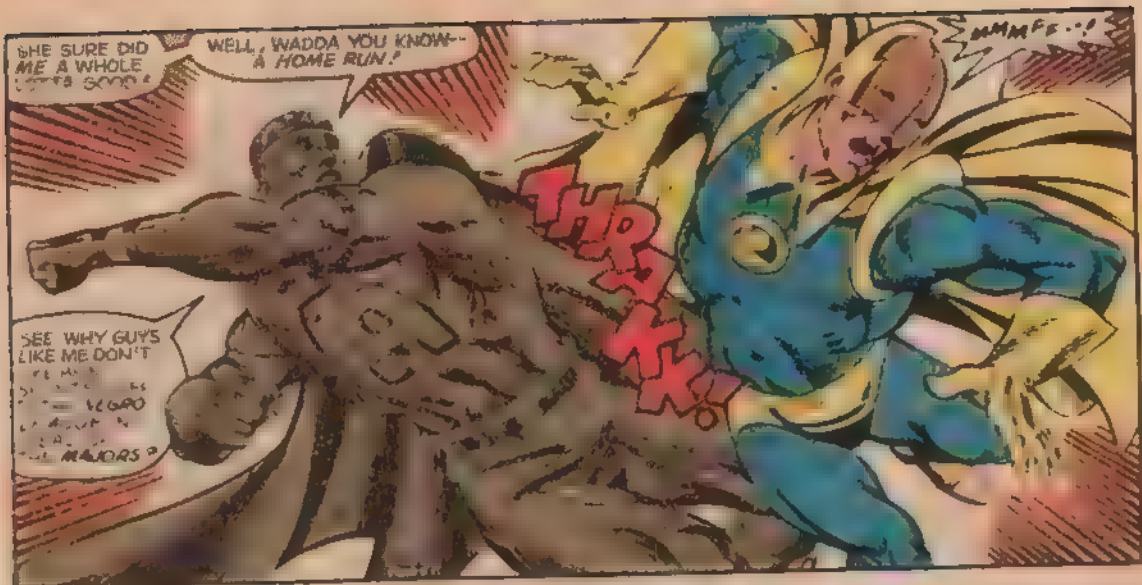
JUST PUT IT DOWN SLOW AND EASY, AND THANK YOUR LUCKY STARS THAT INZA WASN'T REALLY HARMED--

--OR THEY'D HAVE TO CARRY YOU OUT OF HERE IN A BASKET!

BLI OHL, I BRING IT DOWN AROUND YOUR EARS!

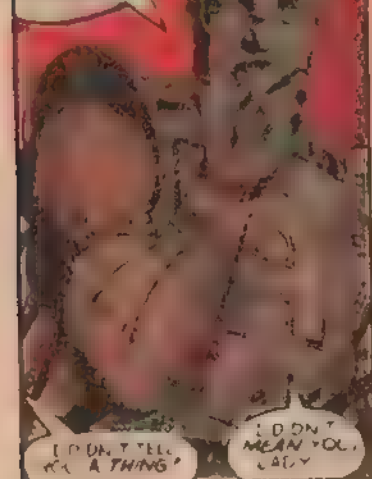






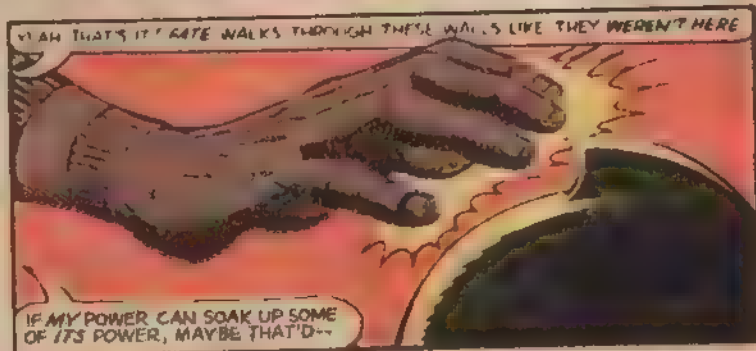
TRUBLE IS, THESE WALLS ARE SO THICK, IT'D TAKE ME HOURS TO HAMMER MY WAY OUT-- AND I DON'T HAVE THAT KINDA TIME

WHOA, NOW SHE SAID THAT HEADGEAR'S -- T SOME MAGICAL POWER



I DON'T TELL A THING

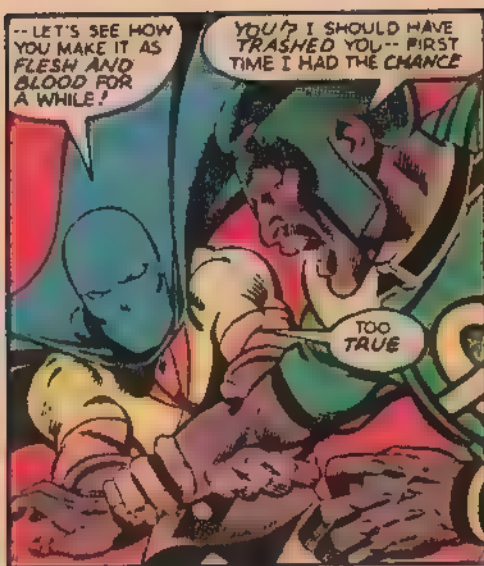
I DON'T MEAN YOU, LADY



IF MY POWER CAN SOAK UP SOME OF ITS POWER, MAYBE THAT'D--



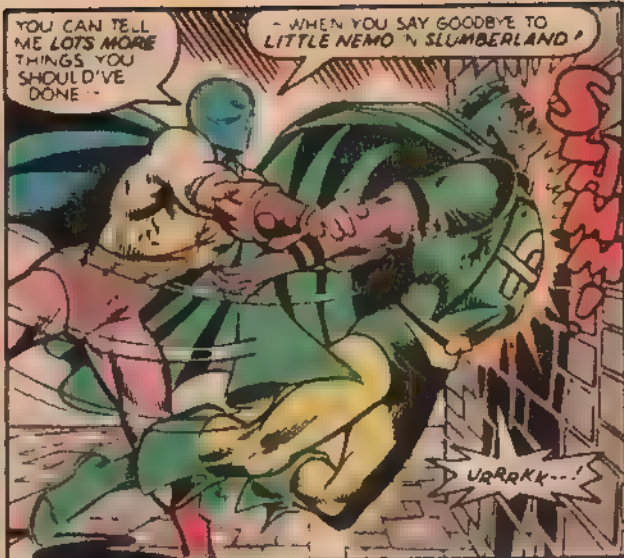
SINCE YOU SEEM SO PROUD OF BEING A HUMAN SPONGE, H LUDY--



--LET'S SEE HOW YOU MAKE IT AS FLESH AND BLOOD FOR A WHILE!

YOU? I SHOULD HAVE TRASHED YOU-- FIRST TIME I HAD THE CHANCE

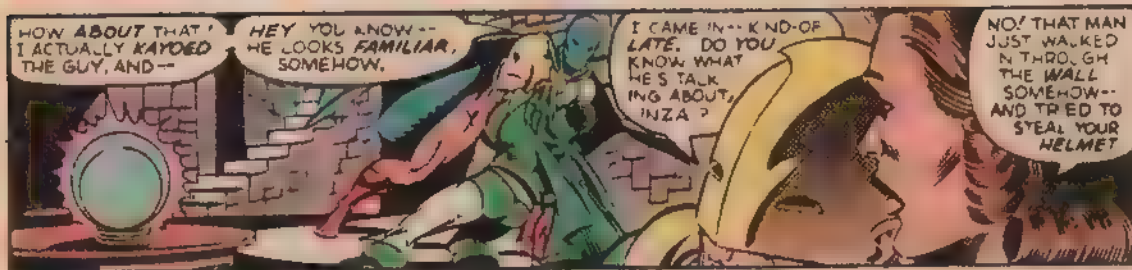
TOO TRUE



YOU CAN TELL ME LOTS MORE THINGS YOU SHOULD'VE DONE--

-- WHEN YOU SAY GOODBYE TO LITTLE NEMO IN SLUMBERLAND!

URRRKK--!



HOW ABOUT THAT? I ACTUALLY KAYOED THE GUY, AND--

HEY YOU KNOW-- HE LOOKS FAMILIAR, SOMEHOW.

I CAME IN-- KND-OF LATE. DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT, INZA?

NO! THAT MAN JUST WALKED IN THRO' GH THE WALL SOMEHOW-- AND TRIED TO STEAL YOUR HELMET



WHAT I MEANT IS-- YEAH, I'M SURE OF IT NOW! HE'S WILL EVERETT! THAT NAME RING A BELL?

YOU MEAN-- THE OLYMPIC CHAMPION!?

CHECK! HE AND JESSE OWENS WERE THE PRIDE OF THE U.S. TEAM IN THE '36 BERLIN OLYMPICS.

BUT WHAT'S A GUY LIKE THAT DOING IN COSTUME TRYING TO STEAL YOUR GOLDEN HELMET?



WE'LL SOON FIND OUT, IF INZA'S--

LIKE I TOLD YOU, DARLING-- I'M RESILIENT



YOU'D HAVE TO BE-- TO PUT UP WITH KENT NELSON AND DOC FOR FATE IN THE SAME LIFE-- TIME.

OKAY ATOM-- PLACE EVERETT'S HAND ON THE ORB



SURE THING, BUT WHAT'LL THAT--?

YOU'LL SEE



THE SECRET ORIGIN OF... AMAZING-MAN!

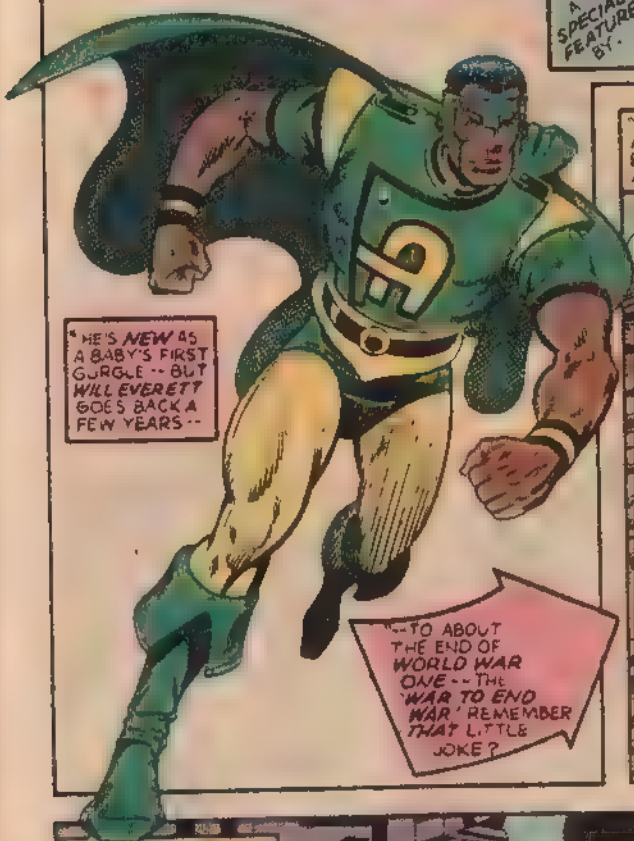
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BY

ROY
THOMAS
SCRIPT

RICK
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PENCILS

MIKE
MACHLAN
INKS

CHARACTER
CREATED BY
THOMAS & ORDWAY

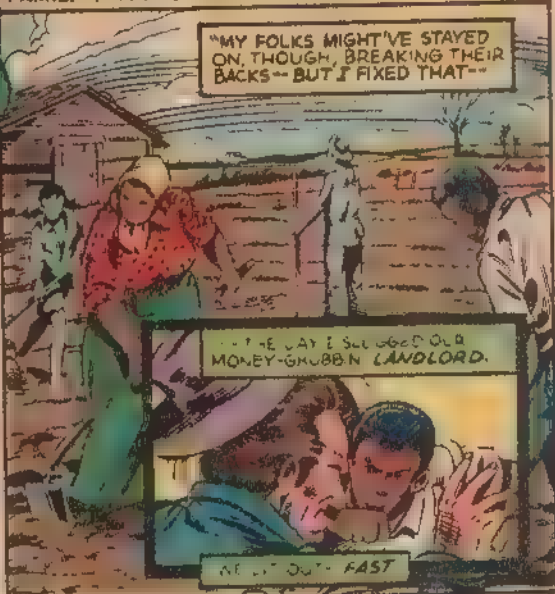


"HE'S NEW AS A BABY'S FIRST GURGLE -- BUT WILL EVERETT GOES BACK A FEW YEARS --"

"--TO ABOUT THE END OF WORLD WAR ONE-- THE 'WAR TO END WAR' REMEMBER THAT LITTLE JOKE?"

"I WAS RAISED IN THE SOUTH, DURING THE SO-CALLED ROARING 20'S -- ONLY THERE WASN'T ANYTHING BOASTEROUS ABOUT THE LIFE OF A SHARECROPPER FAMILY TRYIN' TO MAKE ENDS MEET."

"MY FOLKS MIGHT'VE STAYED ON, THOUGH, BREAKING THEIR BACKS -- BUT I FIXED THAT--"



"...THE WAY I SLEAVED OLD MONEY-GRUBBIN' LANDLORD."

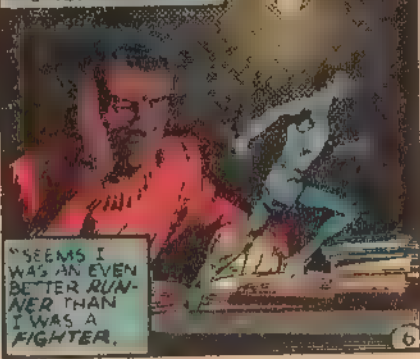
NEED OUT -- FAST

"JOBS WERE SCARCE FOR NEGROES IN DETROIT IN THOSE DAYS..."

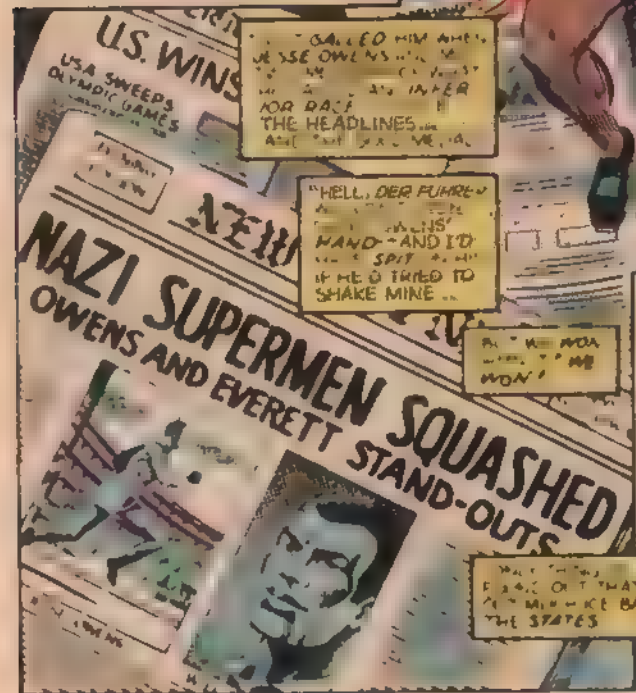


"BUT SOMEHOW, POP GOT A JOB IN AN AUTO FACTORY."

"HE WORKED HIS TAIL OFF SO I COULD STAY IN SCHOOL -- AND TRAIN AT NIGHT FOR THE OLYMPICS"



"SEEMS I WAS AN EVEN BETTER RUNNER THAN I WAS A FIGHTER."





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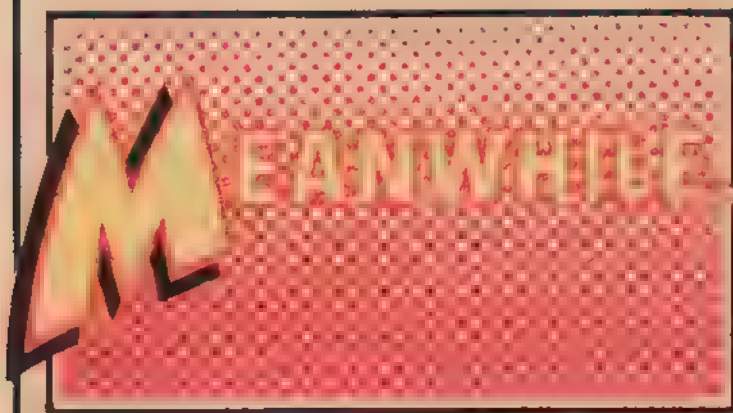
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Jan. 28th, Stratford, Ct. 4:00 A.M. Soft strains of quiet music filter thru my sleep-clotted brain and nudge me awake. Rock's okay... but not to wake up to. Shut off my clock/radio and pad downstairs to brew my morning tea. No day can start without my morning tea.

4:20 A.M. Armed with my steaming mug (Sweet 'n' Low and a little cream, please), I sit down at my drawing table, turn on my T.V. to "Nightline" and start inking page 6 of a special Teen Titans book concerned with drugs. It's a 28 page book by the regular Titans' team of Wolfman and Perez but this one's being done for the government. The anti-drug message doesn't interfere with it being a good story and so we may also release it to the general public as a special.

6:15 A.M. Finished inking the figures on page 6. Bill Collins who's helping me by inking backgrounds on this book will finish it up. Too tight a deadline for a part-timer like me to do alone.

7:05 A.M. Showered, shampooed, shaved and as shiny as I can be I jump in my '78 Monte Carlo for the short drive to the railroad station to catch the 7:28 to New York. First I gotta stop at Dunkin' Donuts for my morning coffee. No day can start without my morning coffee.

7:28 A.M. Made it! After finishing my morning coffee and looking at all the pretty girls on the train, I dig into the bulging portfolio I carry all the time for some paper and start to write this column! (Of course I can't finish writing this till later... The day hasn't finished yet.)

9:15 A.M. (New York City) Late again! We arrive at Grand Central station some fifteen minutes late and I have to hustle to the office to make a 9:30 meeting in Paul Levitz's office.

9:29 (At my office) Just have time to fix my mid-morning cup of coffee before running down the hall to Paul's office. No meeting can start without my mid-morning cup of coffee.

9:32 (Paul's office) Roger Sliter, Editor, Bruce Bristow, Marketing Director and Paul, V.P. Operations all look-up as I burst into the office. They stare at me a bit reproachfully. They

can't fool me... they've been here all night to make sure they'd all be there before me so they could make me feel guilty for being late.

We discuss a new reprint line. Our current reprints are restricted to two monthly digest-sized titles. 96 pages each and some pretty good stuff but the small size makes the good stories less impressive and it's clear that the off-size isn't terribly popular with retailers. The first thing we decide is that even if we produce a few digest reprints a year, most of our future reprints will be conventionally sized with at least some of it to have good production values (offset printing on Baxter stock). We decide that details will be firmed up at a later meeting. I mention that our new reprint rates will make our artists & writers very happy. We've increased them over 400%! Very happy indeed!

10:30 (Back in my office) My last (Honest!) cup of coffee for the day sits in front of me as I write all this down (From 9:15 A.M.) before I forget. Before I'm done, the following takes place (though not necessarily in this order).

● Julie Schwartz pops in with the news that Superman and Supergirl will be a bit late this month. No sweat.

● Bob LeRose (Production) has a problem on a cover. We solve it.

● Karen Berger insists we're going to ship an entire week of comics late if I don't start hounding some of our people. She has to tell me that. She's our Editorial Coordinator.

● Pat Bastienne worries that the Freelancer checks won't be down from Payroll till late in the afternoon and the artists and writers who come in to pick them up will have to wait for them.

● Roy Thomas calls from L.A. Gee, he's up early. Only 8:30 or so his time. Wants to know if the title for his new project has cleared copyright search. It hasn't. "How can we promote it if it doesn't have a title?" Gee, I don't know, Roy!

● Len Wein reminds me that we've got an afternoon meeting. What time, Len? About 3:00 P.M. Okay.

12:05 P.M. Lunch time! Generally, lunch time is also business time. When I can, I go to lunch with one (or more) of our writers or artists and discuss...

well, comics. Not so today I take off with a few people from the office and manage to stare at the wall a lot while I'm eating to recharge my batteries.

1:15 (Back at the office) Note on my desk advises me that my "Meanwhile..." column is desperately late. "Warning! If it's not to the typesetter by Monday... We print a blank page!" I don't get no respect.

1:35 (my office) Don McGregor brings in the re-write for "Nathaniel Dusk" #1. He originally wrote it as a complete script but Gene Colan felt constricted and made some changes to open it up a bit. This required that Don do a partial re-write to bridge the gaps left by Gene's changes. The final result of the two working off each other is near perfect.

2:07 (Still my office) Before I can digest the Dusk re-write, Ernie Colon and Roger Sliter plop themselves down across my desk and proceed to outline a year's worth of material scheduled for "New Talent Showcase". They're the editors of that worthwhile project that provides a showcase for new talent (That's why we picked that title, gang!). Their line-up looks great and after making some suggestions for getting the operation to run more smoothly, we agree to meet again in a week or two and set a firm schedule for the books premiere appearance.

2:48 (My office still) Just time for a few phone calls before my 3:00 'clock meeting. Nuts 'N Bolts stuff; like, "When's Omega Men #4 gonna come in, Mike?" And "Don't laugh, Frank! I really need the art for the Renin poster by the 17th" and "what do you mean you haven't been paid for the Green Lantern art..." I put your bill thru two weeks ago!"

3:00 Doug Moench, George Perez, Len Wein and Marv Wolfman troop into, and take over my office. "We're gonna talk about Robin I an' Robin II", I'm informed. Well, first of all we'll never call them by those names. And secondly I can't tell you any more yet. But the meeting lasted until 5:19 P.M. and that's the time I have to leave the office to make the...

5:42 Train back to Stratford I read "Sword Of The Atom" part III on the train, discuss some of the day's events with staffer Pat Bastienne who often shares my commute. I dose off.

7:17 (Stratford) And just 9 minutes late.

7:30 (Home again) In time for dinner, a bit of TV and falling asleep wherever I am by 10 P.M. (Unless I'm doing something I like!)

Well, some of you have asked "just what does an Executive Editor (or Managing Editor; or Editor-in-Chief) do?" And I just thought I'd...

Thank you and Good afternoon...

Dick -



"TIMES WERE HARD--AND THE DETROIT TIGERS WEREN'T EXACTLY HIRING ANY COLORED SHORT-STOPS THAT DECADE

"TO TOP T OFF A FIRE IN THE KITCHEN TRAP WHERE WE LIVED.



"FINALLY I GOT A JOB SWEEPING UP FOR A SCENTIST NAMED CURTIS WHO'D JUST COME TO DETROIT FROM METROPOLIS.

"ONLY TO VANISH A FEW WEEKS LATER WITHOUT A TRACE

HE'D PAID ME IN ADVANCE THOUGH SO I JUST KEPT LOCKEYIN' A BROOM AROUND.

NO SKIN OFF MY NOSE.



"AT LEAST I DIDN'T THINK SO--TILL A FEW DAYS BACK, WHEN--

SAY, WHO--HOLD IT, MISTER! NO NEED FOR THOSE GUNS.

"SHUT UP, SAMBO! WE JUST DROPPED BY FOR SOME OF THE PROFS GEAR--AND YOU CAN HELP US LOAD

"SNAP TO IT, BOY!

MAYBE DOC CURTIS FORGOT TO TELL YOU--

--I DON'T MUCH COTTON TO BEIN' CALLED "BOY"



"HAT WAS SMART. REAL SMART. ME AND A BUCKET OF WATER ASSETS A COUPLE OF HIRED GUNNIES.

SINCE I KNEW I'D BE DROPPED OFF AN' GOT OUT OF THERE



THWAK!

"I'M PROBABLY LUCKY HE CLIPPED ME, INSTEAD OF SHOOTIN' ME

...CEPT THERE WAS A THIRD GUY WAITIN' OUTSIDE.

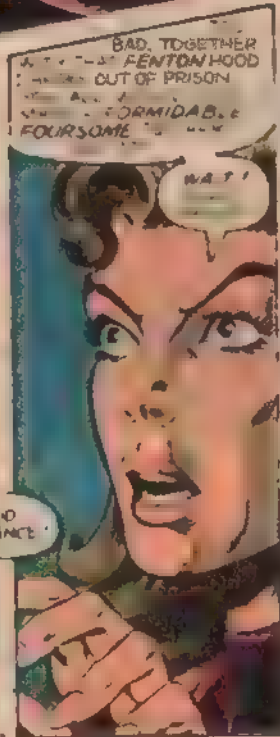
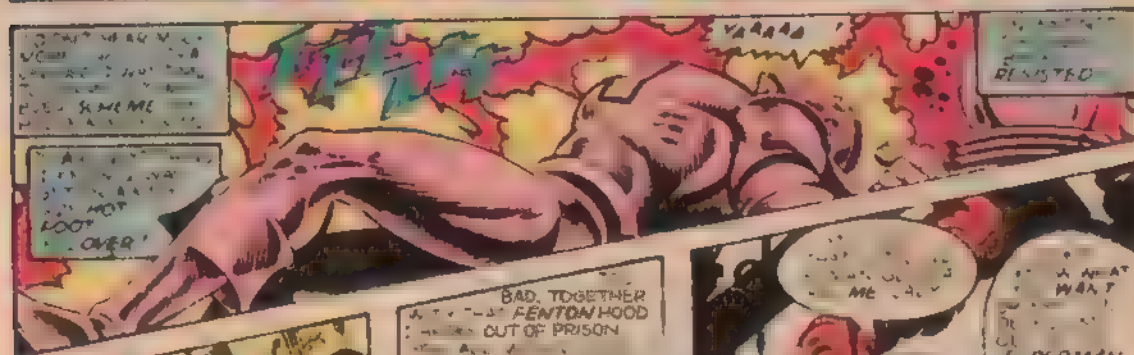
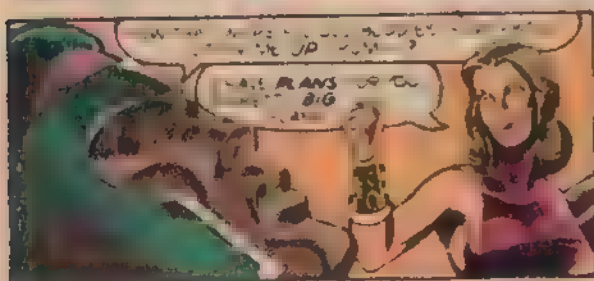


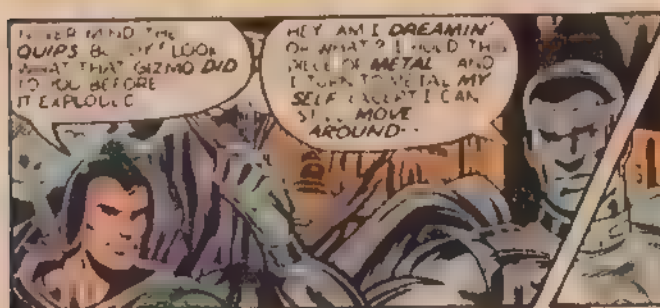
OKAY NOW WHAT?

WE TAKE HIM TO THE FANE THAT HIRED US--WHAT'S THAT NAME SHE GAVE US AGAIN?

ULTRA

YEAH LET HER DEC DE WHETHER TH'S BURRHEAD W'CS UP WITH LEAD SHOES OR NOT



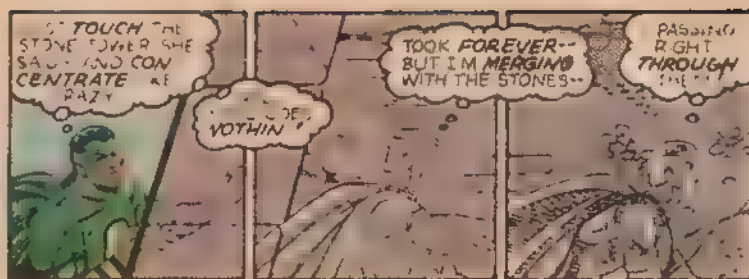




AND I AIN'T
FEELING TOO
DID YOU
ABOUT HOW I
GOT IT

SO
ULTRA WANTS
DR FATE'S
MAGIC HELMET
FROM INSIDE
HERE DOES
SHE?

NO DOORS.
NO WINDOWS.
SO I'LL TRY
WHAT SHE
TOLD ME..



"TOUCH THE
STONE TOWER SHE
SAID AND CON-
CENTRATE AS
PAZY

"NOTHING"

TOOK FOREVER--
BUT I'M MERGING
WITH THE STONES--

PASSED
RIGHT
THROUGH
THE



NOW TO--

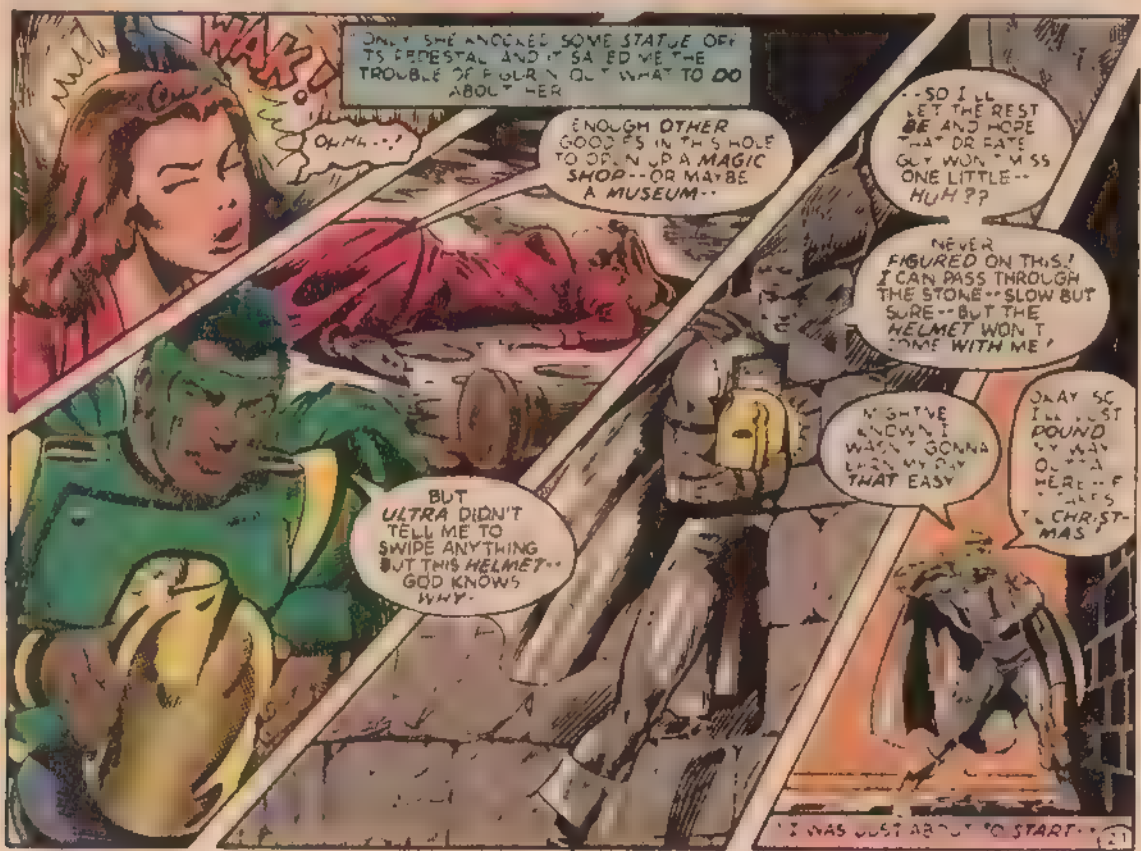
MLH?
I THOUGHT
THIS PLACE
WAS
DESERTED!

WH-WHOEVER YOU ARE,
YOU'D BETTER GET OUT
OF HERE, BEFORE--



"I DIDN'T HAVE TO TELL YOUR
LADYFRIEND I WAS AFTER
THE HELMET."

"SHE SAW IT IN MY EYES
WHEN I SPOTTED IT--
AND SHE LUNGED TOWARD
IT LIKE A JACKRABBIT--



ONLY SHE ANNOYED SOME STATUE OFF
ITS PEDestal AND IT SAID ME THE
TROUBLE OFFERIN' OUT WHAT TO DO
ABOUT HER

Ohh..?

ENOUGH OTHER
GOODIES IN THIS HOLE
TO OPEN UP A MAGIC
SHOP--OR MAYBE
A MUSEUM--

--SO I'LL
LET THE REST
BE AND HOPE
--THAT DR FATE
GUY WON'T MISS
ONE LITTLE--
HUH??

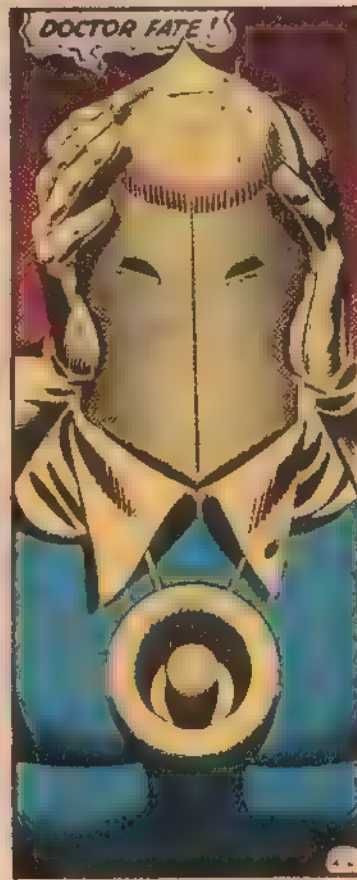
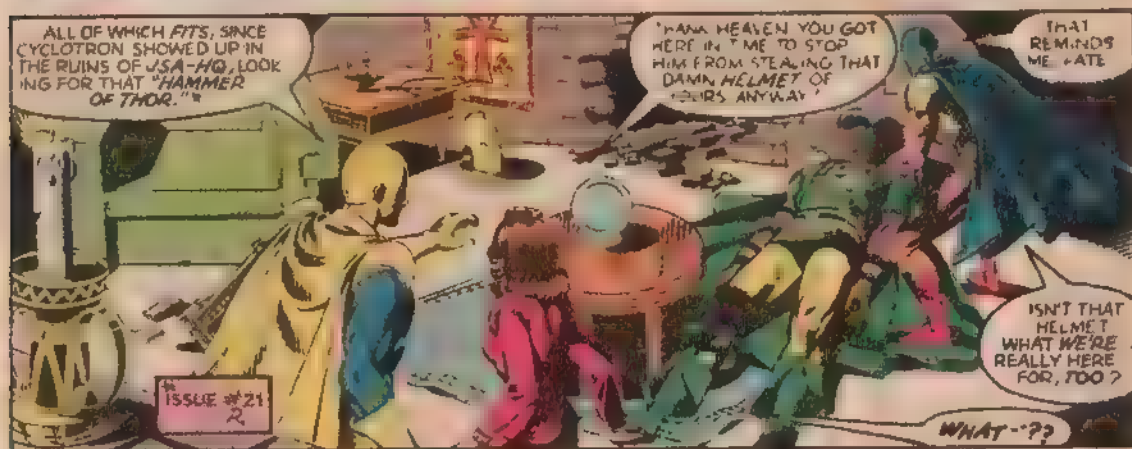
NEVER
FIGURED ON THIS!
I CAN PASS THROUGH
THE STONE--SLOW BUT
SURE--BUT THE
HELMET WON'T
COME WITH ME!

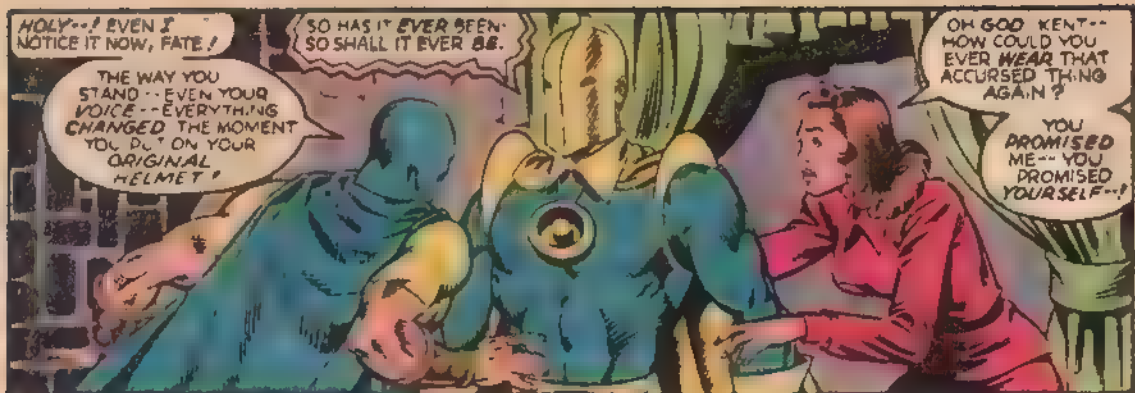
MIGHTVE
KNOWN I
WAS GONNA
LARK MYSELF
THAT EASY

OHAY SC
I'LL JUST
ROUND
MY WAY
OUTTA
HERE--F
--THAT'S
CHRIST-
MAS!

BUT
ULTRA DIDN'T
TELL ME TO
SWIPE ANYTHING
BUT THIS HELMET--
GOD KNOWS
WHY.

"I WAS JUST ABOUT TO START--"





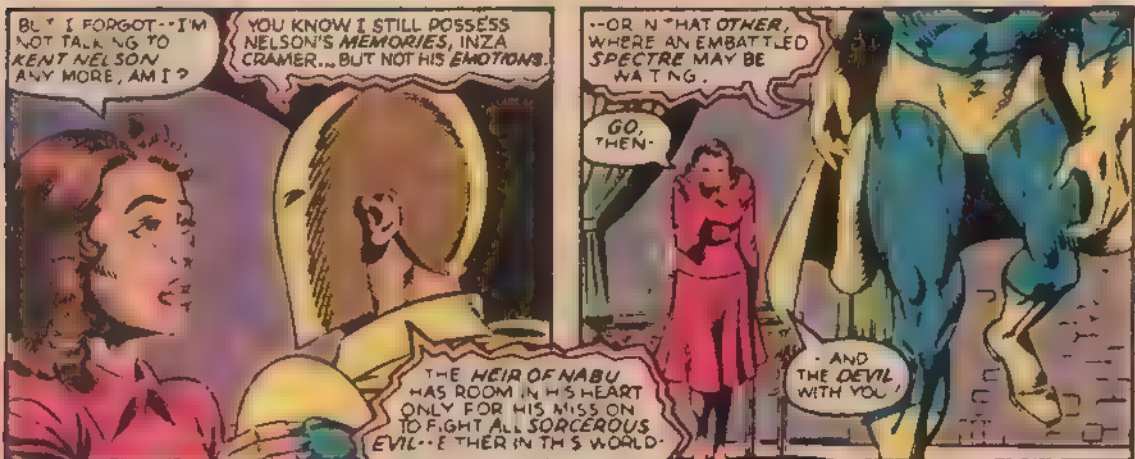
HOLY--! EVEN I NOTICE IT NOW, FATE!

SO HAS IT EVER BEEN-- SO SHALL IT EVER BE.

OH GOD KENT-- HOW COULD YOU EVER WEAR THAT ACCURSED THING AGAIN?

YOU PROMISED ME-- YOU PROMISED YOURSELF--!

THE WAY YOU STAND-- EVEN YOUR VOICE-- EVERYTHING CHANGED THE MOMENT YOU PUT ON YOUR ORIGINAL HELMET!



BUT I FORGOT-- I'M NOT TALKING TO KENT NELSON ANY MORE, AM I?

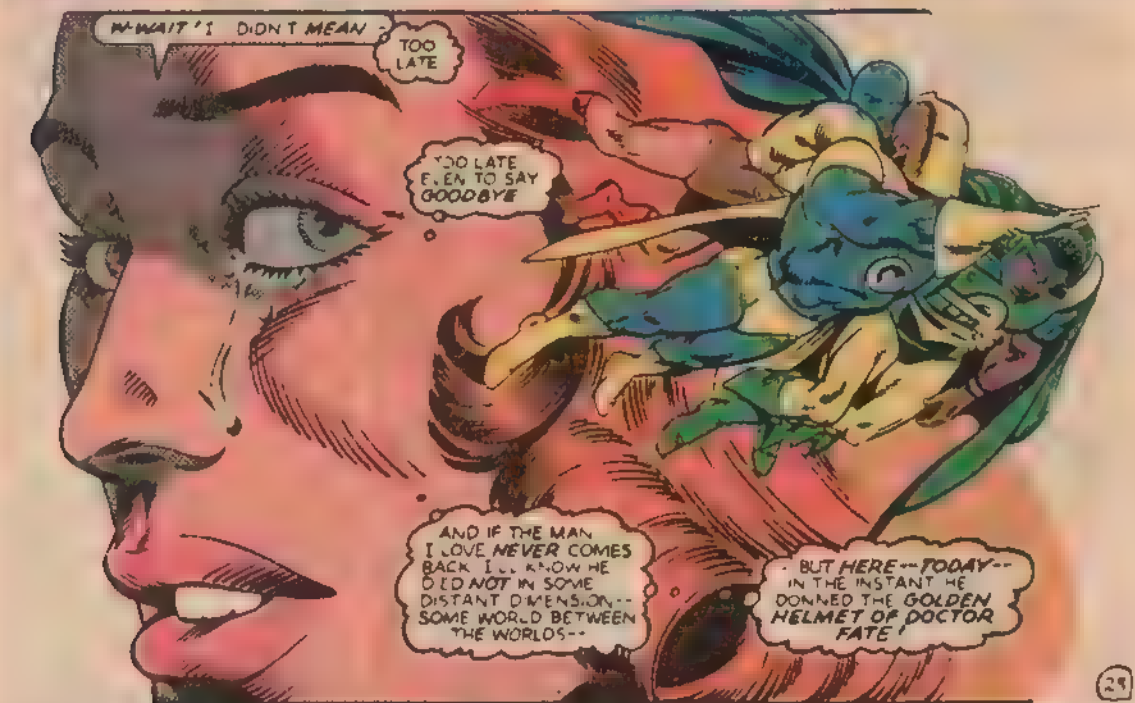
YOU KNOW I STILL POSSESS NELSON'S MEMORIES, IN A CRAMER... BUT NOT HIS EMOTIONS.

--OR IN THAT OTHER, WHERE AN EMBATTLED SPECTRE MAY BE WAITING.

GO, THEN.

THE HEIR OF NABU HAS ROOM IN HIS HEART ONLY FOR HIS MISSION TO FIGHT ALL SORCEROUS EVIL-- EITHER IN THIS WORLD--

AND THE DEVIL WITH YOU!



W-WAIT-- I DIDN'T MEAN--

TOO LATE

TOO LATE EVEN TO SAY GOODBYE

AND IF THE MAN I LOVE NEVER COMES BACK I'LL KNOW HE DID NOT IN SOME DISTANT DIMENSION-- SOME WORLD BETWEEN THE WORLDS--

BUT HERE-- TODAY-- IN THE INSTANT HE DONNED THE GOLDEN HELMET OF DOCTOR FATE!

NEXT ISSUE: **ULTRA STRIKES!** ENTER: **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN!** PLUS **BRAIN WAVE'S** BACK IN TOWN-- OR IS HE??

ALL-STAR SQUADROOM

DC COMICS, INC., 666 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10103

To start things off—a letter on issue #19 we were especially pleased to receive—!

Dear Roy:

Thanks for the copies of ALL-STAR SQUADRON, including #19. I read them over with great enjoyment—they brought back old memories!—you and Jerry Ordway are doing a bang-up job. Great work.

You have captured all the old verve and spirit with which Sheldon Meyer and I tried to imbue the original ALL-STAR COMICS. As you know, it was a real job to get all those characters into a single book! It took a lot of sweat, not to mention the thinking. It was fun, though.

In those long-ago days, it was a matter of production. As M.C. Geines used to say, "Don't give me Rembrandt, give me production!" And sometimes we might have been more war-oriented, as you say, but after all, we were at war, and feelings against Japan ran understandably high. But that's all ancient history....

And so, my blessings on ALL-STAR SQUADRON! I hope it (and your script for the second Conan film) knocks 'em dead, as they say.

Gardner F. Fox

Our special thanks to Gardner for his kind words. As many DC boosters know, Gardner, now retired except for a paperback novel or two a year and a few other special projects, was the co-creator in the 30's and 40's of the Flash, Hawkman, Dr. Fate, Starman and the Justice Society of America itself! So his "blessing" is an especially welcome one—and we hope he liked his animal counterpart in a recent CAPTAIN CARROT issue as well.

Actually, Gardner, for the time and temper of the day, the DC Comics were, historically speaking (and I was a history major back in the distant past, after all), pretty mild as far as jingoistic and racial attitudes were concerned, all things considered, so the author of the JLA tale "Man, Thy Name is Brother!" and of ALL-STAR COMICS #27 ("A Place in the World," dealing with the handicapped and mentioned favorably in at least one encyclopedia of the day) has little if anything to apologize for. In some ways, the events of ALL-STAR SQUADRON #19-20 were intended to bring things into a balance. As you'll see in future issues, our new mag is not a chauvinistic war comic by any means, though at the same time it seeks to recreate a period, to look at it both historically and critically, and to give a new and more modern interpretation to the expression "Remember Pearl Harbor" that has nothing at all to do with any ill feelings toward Japan or Germany.

Did we leave anything out? Oh yes—you're supposed to have fun while you read it, too. And luckily, that's just what thousands of readers seem to be having, every month... maybe almost as much fun as Jerry and I have producing it!

—R.T.

Now, a few random quotes from our mountain of mail on Jerry's penciling-and-inking debut from various letters:

I'm really impressed! ALL-STAR SQUADRON was always a very good book; it just didn't get me excited like the LEGION or TEEN TITANS. Guess what? I'm not excited now, I'm downright HYPER! #19 was the best of the series to date. The Squadron

now has what the Legion and Titans have. It's great!

John L. Egnew
1806 N. Perkins Dr.
Urbana, IL 61800

"Death, Considered as a State of Mind!" (#19) was terrific! Jerry made a powerful debut as both penciler and inker. You (Ordway) told it all! It's great to see the Brain Wave in his original state.

Charles David Haskell
15 W. 139th St. #4R
New York, NY 10037

Jerry Ordway's artistic renditions for #19 were absolutely superb. The entire issue was exciting, but pp. 2-3 were especially engaging (and Roy's plot for this issue was one of his best, too). Together they made the Brain Wave a far more believable menace than he has been in the past.

Wallace Lee Hopkins
Box 428
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Back when I was in grade school, one of the topics in Theology/Religion class was Predestination, the idea that the Creator (or Whoever) decided what each of us was meant to do with his or her life. Jerry Ordway was predestined to be the artist for ALL-STAR SQUADRON! I love the return of the JSA, too, but I wonder how you're going to fit all the heroes in!

Mike Sopp
438 W. 32
Erie, PA 16508

Don't worry, Mike, we'll manage—though not always in the same issue! Heck, we've got heroes we're just dying to get into the book who haven't been featured yet, including the Seven Soldiers of Victory and the mysteriously-absent Hourman. Meanwhile, we doubt if it comes as any surprise to anyone who read issue #19 that there was scarcely a dissenting vote concerning Jerry's powerful yet painstakingly-detailed artwork. And we hope you all feel similarly about the Ordway/Machien team slated for the foreseeable future. Let us know, okay?

—Roy Thomas.

ROY'S RAVINGS

Let's face it: Over recent years, comics creators have held forth from "Soapboxes," "Corners," et al., regaling you—and me, for that matter—about current and upcoming comics. So Ye Writer/Editor decided he'd have his own "Rotunda" or "Rostrum" or whatever—but finally decided, what the heck, "Roy's Ravings" sounds as good as anything. So here goes—

Just a helpful hint: Don't miss CAPTAIN CARROT #17, now on sale, a special multi-story issue with art by the likes of Rick Hoberg and John Costanza (yep, that's right—the same guy who letters so many DC mags—and he's good!). Cover by Rick, who's fast becoming a DC super-star.

ARAK, SON OF THUNDER #24 is an even more special issue—special in size (52 pages, counting covers), special in price (\$1, and hopefully worth every penny), special in story (the culmination of the first two years of the mag, including the

action-packed, epoch-making conclusion of the Quest for Malegigi!, from the Thomas/Gonzalez/Alcala team. Not to mention maps, pin-ups, and a zillion long-secrets behind ARAK! We'd say don't miss this one, either—but you know how we hate to repeat ourselves.

Now, back to your letters—

Dear Roy and Jerry,

Well! I expected great artwork from Jerry Ordway solo, and I wasn't disappointed! The art in #19, not to knock Adrian Gonzalez, was the best since Rich Buckler left; in fact, it's very similar to Rich's. Not to mention the return (and the final farewell(?) of the Justice So—er, Battalion! Even though they were all cut down mentally, it's nice to see them back at last! (By the way, if Wonder Woman isn't a member "yet" in 1942, how did Robotman know this last issue? Does he have ESP?)

Y'know, I used to be a New Yorker myself, and my mother told me years ago about the 1939-40 N.Y. World's Fair. I never saw the site of the fair, though, so it was marvelous to see it in #19. What's so great about this series is the fact that you're learning while you're reading. I found out all sorts of things I didn't know before.

Anyway, the return (introduction?) of the Brain Wave is fantastical! Finally, a great JSA foe besides Degaton returns! Isn't all his futuristic (for then) machinery too far advanced for the early 40's? Anyway, his "dreams" implanted into the JSAers' heads are very ominous—and very scary to read. Congratulations, Roy and Jerry. Even though they really weren't slaughter (at least, not yet), it sure seemed like it. The scripting improves every issue, which shows how much time and care you put into the book. And this fan, for one, appreciates it.

Evan M. Lanctot
(No Address Given)

As a matter of fact, Evan, I—this is Roy speaking, of course—appreciate the opportunity given me by DC to work with characters who've fascinated me for anywhere from two to four decades. And working with fine artists like Ordway, Buckler, and Gonzalez on the stories has been a special treat. I, too, was bowled over by Jerry's phenomenal penciling debut.

and hope you like the current Ordway/Machlan team as well, since Jerry just can't handle both chores every issue, as he'd hoped to. But, there's another bright spot—now, Jerry and I (in conjunction with Mike Machlan, a talented Wisconsin pal of Jerry's whom to date I've never even met in person) will be able, starting this fall, to bring you a second JSA-oriented title. Stay tuned for details just an issue or two from now; meanwhile, there's nothing to stop you from making an educated guess or two.

Another ALL-STAR aficionado, John Ordover (currently an English Classic major at a Chicago college), wrote in to say that he, too, had always imagined as a kid having adventures in the old 1939-40 New York World's Fairgrounds. I myself had done so later in life, since I'd first seen copies of WORLD'S FAIR COMICS #1-2, which featured Superman, Batman, Sandman, Hourman, and many other heroes—as well as an old Centaur Comics Group character, The Phantom of the Fair, who'd dwelt on the Fairgrounds while the Fair was going on. Then there was the old Doc Savage novel, The World's Fair Goblin, reprinted some years back.

So when the time came to give the All-Stars a permanent headquarters, the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, and the Smithsonian Institution never really stood a chance!

Oh, and one final point: No, Robotman doesn't have ESP. He just meant that he figured she would be before long, because the JSA had a way of enlisting all the top heroes/heroines in its day, and Wonder Woman had the mark of greatness from the very start.

—R.T.

ALL-STAR ADDENDUM: Just wanted to point out to all and sundry that our digest-size magazine, ADVENTURE COMICS has been reprinting many a classic Joe Simon/Jack Kirby "Sandman" saga. More particularly, issue #499 recently re-presented the 1942 tale "The Villain from Valhalla" (which, by our accounting, actually took place in late '41). Just thought you might want to know.

—R.T.

NEXT ISSUE: The Return of TARANTULA



TARANTULA

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